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is that of wide research, varied information, quick discernment combined with a forcible, though perhaps at times prolix, style. Of especial pleasure to the reader, as well as student, are the chapters on the Spanish novel (I. 3), the religious novel (II. 5) and the psychological novel of Mme. de Lafayette (II. 10). The second volume of this work, containing its third general division,—the realistic novel,—will be awaited with interest.

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BRIEF MENTION.

Miss Louise Both-Hendriksen's selections from Alfred de Musset, Lamartine and Victor Hugo, entitled 'La Triade française' (Boston, Schoenhof), is an excellent book for advanced classes. In point of execution it does honor to the publisher, and the editor has shown taste and discrimination in the choice of the poems. The selection of Hugo's 'Expiation' was particularly felicitous and novel; but why have omitted a single line of this very characteristic piece?

Since the long notice devoted by the MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES to Mr. Jenkins' French publications, he has added four others to his already extensive list. 'Les Fiancés de Grindewald' contains two charming little tales by Erckmann-Chatrian, easy and perfectly adapted for use in elementary classes. "La Fille de Roland," by M. Henri de Bornier, is the most ambitious work in Mr. Jenkins' list. It is a drama in four acts and in verse; modern Alexandrines, not at all difficult. The play will seem rather highstrung to those who cannot enter into the patriotic spirit of the author. It was played in 1875, which partly accounts for its success.

Professor Crane, of Cornell University, is preparing an extensive work on the great mediæval collections of Latin stories, their sources and imitations in the Modern Languages. A large part of the material has been taken from unedited MSS. in the British Museum and National Library at Paris, or from early printed books.

Among the former class are the *exempla* or illustrative stories contained in the sermons of

Jacques de Vitry, Bishop of Acre and the historian of the Crusades. Although these stories are of the greatest value for the question of the diffusion of popular tales, they have never before been edited.

Prof. Crane's work, which is entitled 'Mediæval Story-Books and Stories,' will cover the entire range of mediæval Latin fiction, including *contes dévots*, fables, apologues, historical anecdotes, jests, etc., and will be valuable not only to the student of comparative literature and folk-lore, but also to those interested in mediæval culture and history.

Francis H. Stoddard, M. A., University Instructor in English at the University of California, has announced a series of four lectures on 'The Religious Drama of the Middle Age.' The following subjects are to be treated:

1. *General Introduction. Sources of our Knowledge of the Miracle Plays and Mysteries.*
2. *History and Development of the Plays.*
3. *Extant Collections of English Mysteries.*
4. *Literary and Linguistic Value of the Mysteries.*

Professor Alphonse van Daell, whose recent appointment is noticed among the 'personals,' writes from Boston: "I have found in a private library what seems to me a very valuable MS. of the 'Roman de la Rose,' which appears to have belonged to the library of Charles IX. On the verso of the first leaf is a *dédicace* by Baïf. A note attributes the writing to Flamel, Secrétaire du duc de Berry.

The MS. contains 154 leaves of old parchment, besides one, evidently of a more recent date, containing the Baïf *dédicace*; the two last leaves are in blank. Each page has two columns of 36 lines, when there are no miniatures. The work is perfect except at the top of some pages, where the letters are damaged."

Professor Charles F. Richardson, of Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, has just seen through the press the first volume of his work on 'American Literature from 1607 to 1885.' It is entitled 'The Development of American Thought,' including all writers of importance save poets and novelists, (G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y.). The second and concluding volume of this important treatise will probably appear in 1888.

Professor Coelho, whose valuable treatise on the Portuguese verb and excellent contributions to a knowledge of the Creole dialect and the dialects of Portugal are well known, is preparing a work on glottology, of which the following is the general plan:

- I. Introdução: dominio, questões capitais, character, methodo, historia e litteratura da glottologia geral.
- II. A linguagem em geral (como phenomeno physio-psychologico e historico-natural).
 - a) A linguagem como phenomeno physico.
 - b) A linguagem como phenomeno physico-logico.
 - c) A linguagem como phenomeno psychologico.
 - d) Significação anthropologica da linguagem.
- III. A linguagem em especial (como phenomeno ethnico e historico-social).
 - a) Comparação das linguas em geral (Grammatica comparada em sentido lato).
 - b) Comparação das linguas correlacionadas genealogicamente (Grammatica comparada em sentido stricto).
 - c) Classificação das linguas.
 - d) Principios da historia da linguagem.
 - e) Applicações da glottologia.

That the English sonnet not only differs from the Italian sonnet from which it has been derived, but that it also furnishes diversity in kind, is one of those traditional facts in English versification that are usually treated with a lack of historical perspective and clearness of argument that have also become traditional in works on metre. It is therefore gratifying to know that a careful study of this subject has been made from which we may learn to confirm historically those facts that in their isolation from proofs have become mere tradition, and also gain a method of investigation in which historic calm and æsthetic quickness are admirably combined. Dr. Karl Lentzner of Königsburg in his monograph: "*Ueber Das Sonett und seine Gestaltung in der englischen Dichtung bis Milton* (Halle, Niemeyer, 1886)," shows that the severely proper form may both grace and strengthen the thought of a master; that a more delicate and more definitely

appreciable effect than is generally known comes from the proper handling of this verse-form. The author considers first the form and contents of the sonnet, and with a method both painstaking and spirited enlightens the reader in respect both of its mechanical and of its soulful aspects. In the second part is considered the rise of the sonnet in English poetry, and its development to the time of Milton. The treatise is interesting, scholarly and full. There is quite an extended bibliography of sonnet literature and criticism in the list of consulted works, and the copious foot-notes. These pages are heartily recommended to the student of metre,—and those too, that "scorn not the sonnet's scanty plot of ground," may be assured to find profit in them.

Dr. Theodore Siebs, of Bremen, is a young scholar who has undertaken a systematic and exhaustive study of the Frisian dialects throughout the entire period of their history. A first sketch of his method in this work constituted Dr. Siebs' Dissertation for graduation, a year ago, at the University of Leipzig; it is a partial study of the vocalism in the oldest forms of the Frisian language, entitled, "*Der vocalismus der stammsilben in der altfriesischen sprache*," and has been published in *Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur* XI, 205—261.* That this initial study is in a high degree trustworthy, and contains "vital signs" of the writer's future service to philological science, is attested by the flattering circumstance that Dr. Siebs has since been asked to assume the preparation of the Frisian volume in Braune's series of Germanic Grammars. It may be added that Dr. Siebs has accepted the task, and hopes to bring it to completion in the course of the next two years; in the meanwhile he has given us another interesting chapter of his studies preliminary to his ultimate work on the Frisian dialects in a monograph just published: *Die assibilierung des k und g; ein beitrag zur geschichte des palatalismus der indogermanischen sprachen unter besonderer berücksichtigung des friesischen* (Tübingen, Fues und Kostenbader,

*The separate edition of this Dissertation (Halle, 1885), closes with the first chief section and corresponds, therefore, to *Beitr.*, 205—245.

1886). The philology of the Frisian dialects is of the highest value to the student of English. Of all the continental Germanic dialects, none stands in such close relation to the oldest form of English as does the Friesian. It is indeed probable that in the investigation of the earliest phenomena of the Anglo-Saxon language, a common basal-form for these two groups must be assumed, which was then severed early in the fifth century. The process of assibilation, and of the palatalization of gutturals is particularly instructive in demonstrating this relationship. This treatise is, therefore, in no unimportant sense a contribution to English grammar, and as such deserves the attention of the specialist. Subjoined to the treatment of these phonetic charges within the domain of the Frisian dialects, are brief sections on the same phenomena in the chief branches of the Indo-European group, which are however, of a character too summary to allow more than the most general statements, so that the comparative grammarian will hardly find much that is new in them.

Dr. Siebs has occasionally been misled in the selection of illustrative examples: so, to cite a single instance, at p. 52, English *chill* is wrongly referred to A. S. *cēle* (For a correction of Sweet's former view as expressed C. Past. p. XXIX, see Proceedings of the London Phil. Soc., June, 3, 1881; and compare Kluge, *Beitr.*, VIII, p. 538, note). The root-forms are *cal- cōl-*; from the former we obtain **calis* > W. S. *ciele*, *cyle*, Anglian *cele*, just as **slagis* gives *slege*; whereas **cēle* would have become modern *keel*. The form *cōl* yields **kōlus*, whence O.H.G. *chuoli*, A.S. *cōl*, modern *cool*; just as **drōbus* gives O.H.G. *truobi* and A. S. *drōf*.

'Le Buste' is one of About's charming stories, easy and well adapted for elementary classes. 'L'Ami Fritz' by Erckmann-Chatrian is probably the very best of the novels written by these two authors. As a piece of literary work it is far superior to their historical novels. Mr. Jenkins deserves the thanks of all French instructors for publishing this work of over 300 pages in such an elegant form for the price of sixty cents.

The *Zeitschrift des allgemeinen deutschen Sprachvereins*, the object of which is to fight the use of foreign words in the German language, has thus far appeared in six numbers. While it must be conceded that it is conducted with ability, steadfastness of aim, and earnestness of purpose, it seems to lack in some degree, that spirit of prudence and caution which is indispensable to the success of similar enterprises. It is unwise to take to task such authors as Schmidt-Weissenfels—the entire republic of men of letters in Germany must resent it; unwise also the acrimonious, and partly offensive tone assumed against dissenting writers such as Hermann Grimm. Indeed, the association cannot yet afford to make such enemies.

The promise given in the prospectus to use moderation in drawing the line between necessary and unnecessary foreign words has, as a rule, been kept. The periodical under consideration employs the bridle as well as the spur, so that one feels assured that the extravagances of Campe will not be repeated to injure and ruin the excellent cause in question. However, I cannot forego noting an exception to the rule. The word "interessant" is classed among the "unnecessary" foreign words, and is therefore told to go, while I believe that no earthly power is able to suppress it. But that is not all. The contributor who puts "interessant" on the proscription list gives a number of German equivalents for it, and then says: "Now if some one finds still another shade of meaning in it, I cannot say he is wrong, but I would like to ask what compels him to use just that particular shade of meaning? Can we not write German without French ideas?" Utterances of this kind, to be sure, are welcome to the enemies of the society.

PERSONAL.

W. R. Morfill, Esq., of Oxford, England, who contributes the review of the *Ruthenisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch* to the present number of the NOTES, is the author of a recent "History of Slavonic Literature," published in